

Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of screening or testing for Candidate antifungal compounds that impair tRNA ligase enzyme (TRL1) function, comprising: a) providing ~~funga~~ *Candida albicans* TRL1; b) providing one or more Candidate compounds; c) contacting said TRL1 with said one or more Candidate compounds; and d) determining the interaction of the Candidate compound with said TRL1.
2. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the TRL1 comprises a fragment, a function-conservative variant, an active fragment or a fusion protein of TRL1.
3. (canceled)
4. (withdrawn) A modified eukaryotic cell(s) wherein the cell(s) expresses fungal TRL1 under the control of a heterologous promoter.
5. (withdrawn) The cell according to claim 4 which is a *C. albicans* cell.
6. (withdrawn) The cell according to claim 4, wherein the TRL1 is homologous.
7. (withdrawn) The cell according to claim 4, wherein the TRL1 comprises a fragment, a function-conservative variant, an active fragment or a fusion protein of TRL1.
8. (withdrawn) A method of screening or testing for Candidate anti-fungal compounds that impair tRNA ligase enzyme (TRL1) function, comprising: a) providing fungal TRL1 in a eukaryotic cell(s) as defined in claim 4; b) providing one or more Candidate compounds; c) contacting said eukaryotic cell(s) with said one or more Candidate compounds; and d) determining the interaction of the Candidate compound with said TRL1 by assessing the effect on growth or viability of said cells.

9. (withdrawn) A compound identified by the method of claim 1, which impairs TRL1 function for use as an antifungal compound.

10. (withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a TRL1 inhibitor and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. (withdrawn) *Candida* or *Aspergillus* TRL1 as a specific target for antifungal compounds.

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 18 wherein the fungal infection is a topical, mucosal or systemic fungal infection.

15. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 14 wherein the topical or mucosal fungal infection is caused by species of *Candida* or the systemic fungal infection is caused by species of *Candida* or *Aspergillus*.

16. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 18 wherein said compound impairs fungal TRL1 function to a greater extent than host TRL1 function.

17. (withdrawn) A compound identified by the method of claim 8 which impairs TRL1 function for use as an antifungal compound.

18. (withdrawn) A method for the treatment or prevention of fungal infections in a host, which comprises administering to the host a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a TRL1 inhibitor.

19. (withdrawn) A method for the treatment or prevention of fungal infections in a subject who is immunosuppressed, which comprises the step of administering to the subject a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a TRL1 inhibitor.

20. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 19 wherein the fungal infection is a topical, mucosal or systemic fungal infection.

21. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 19 wherein the topical or mucosal fungal infection is caused by species of *Candida* or the systemic fungal infection is caused by species of *Candida* or *Aspergillus*.

22. (withdrawn) The method according to 19 wherein said compound impairs fungal TRL1 function to a greater extent than host TRL1 function.